

Quarterly
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Letter

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THE CHAPIN LIBRARY
AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
By H. Richard Archer

EARLY BOOKS, MAGAZINES, & BOOK-MAKING
By Charles H. Shinn

SERENDIPITY
NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS :: EXHIBITIONS
ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP
&c. &c.

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The Book Club of California

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The Chapin Library after Thirty-Five Years

by *H. Richard Archer**

IN February 1923, Alfred Clark Chapin, graduate of Williams College, 1869, presented a collection of books and manuscripts, then consisting of approximately 9,000 volumes, to his *alma mater*. Founded as it was during that expanding era of 1918-1933, the Chapin Library became one of the famous rare-book libraries similar to the Wrenn Library (1918), The Henry E. Huntington Library (1919), the Folger Shakespeare Library (1932), The Pierpont Morgan Library (1924), The John Carter Brown Library (originating in 1900, but whose chief development came after 1923), The William L. Clements Library (1923) and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library (1926).

It was not the intention of the donor to provide a large research library, and the college has continued to develop, in a

*Our New England correspondent, Dick Archer, is now Custodian of the Chapin Library, which he here describes for us. He was formerly at the William Andrews Clark Library and the Lakeside Press.

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liberal arts atmosphere, the collection in keeping with the ideas of its beneficent alumnus. Mr. Chapin intended that the library should contain a representative collection of those fundamental books and manuscripts which constitute the great humanistic traditions so essential to a liberal education. As former Custodian Tom Adams (1955-57) indicated, "It was [the Donor's] hope, and belief, that students who are brought into intimate contact with the sources of their cultural heritage will carry away from their educational experience a richer comprehension of the depth and complexity of the world of which they are to be a part." (*A Brief Account of . . . The Chapin Library . . .*, 1957)

In this respect the Chapin Library is certainly one of the most remarkable collections ever entrusted to a small liberal arts college, purposely made available to undergraduate students who may have access to the many choice books housed therein. During this thirty-five year period, it has been the chief desire of each custodian to promote this kind of use of the collection.

The books in the library were not bought for the donor's personal use: consequently the 9,000 volumes acquired between 1915 and 1923 were listed and stored until the new Stetson Hall building was erected to house the College Library and provide appropriate quarters on the second floor for the rare items which became the corpus of the Chapin Library. Not content with what he had accomplished by the year 1923, the donor continued to buy books. More than 2,000 items had been added prior to his death in 1936, bringing the total number to something under 12,000 volumes (including the reference books), and these items ranged in date from a manuscript of the Eighth Century to some of the finest printed editions of the Twentieth Century.

The scope of the collection is not all-inclusive, for essentially the strongest divisions in the Chapin Library are Americana, English literature, and Incunabula. However, continental literature is well represented; there are unusual examples of scientific publications, especially ornithology, fine printing, illustrated books, a select collection of American literature, a distinguished but select group of *Bibles* and liturgical books, and a small but representative group of illuminated manuscripts in codex form, as well as various historical prints. In addition to the nearly 8,500 rare items (which account for a total of more than 9,500 volumes),

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the Chapin Library has a collection of reference books numbering approximately 4,000 volumes.

Although lists of books do not make great libraries, it is not altogether inappropriate to offer brief descriptions which help to acquaint a library's patrons, students and visitors, with certain items which may be of interest to them. The following summary accounts of the various categories in the collection may be helpful to the readers of the Club's *News-Letter*, since some of these special fields are likely to appeal to bibliophiles and students of typography.

Among the more than 500 incunables there are some items which are known in but one other copy in the United States or Canada. The select, but choice, group of nearly 100 Aldine publications includes ten items printed before 1501. One of these is the magnificent five-volume *Aristoteles* (1495-98), as well as a fine, tall copy of the more celebrated *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (1499), and the Sunderland copy of the much esteemed *Vergil* (1501).

The incunabula holdings include examples from twenty-three Italian towns with 141 items from Venice, forty-seven each from Rome and Florence, and at least one or more from the other twenty towns. The 142 German incunabula include forty-two from Strassburg, twenty-three from Cologne, twenty-two from Augsburg, eighteen from Nuremberg and forty-five from ten other towns. The remaining incunabula were printed in France (thirty-six items), Switzerland (thirteen), Belgium (seven), Holland (four), Spain (four) and England (seven). The last figure includes a Caxton leaf, as well as Caxton's printing of Cato's *Disticha*, two Pynson items, two books from Oxford (sometimes attributed to Theodoric Rood), and one from de Machlinia.

The twenty-three bound manuscripts owned by the Chapin Library in 1935 were listed and briefly described in Seymour de Ricci's *Census*, (I: pp. 1081-86), although some minor changes in the descriptions are being reported for the *Supplement* which is now being compiled. Four other bound manuscripts have been acquired since 1936, and these will also be reported to the editors of the *Supplement*.

There is not space here to enumerate or comment on the twenty-seven choice manuscript volumes, but readers may be interested to learn that the examples include an Eighth Century *Evangelis-*

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tary written in France, a Tenth Century fragment of Bede from St. Gall, an Eleventh Century *Lectionary* of the Gospels from Mt. Athos, a magnificent *New Testament* codex of Theodori produced in the Thirteenth Century at Mt. Athos, and a beautiful Florentine manuscript of Dante's *Inferno* on vellum, assigned to the first half of the Fifteenth Century. The remaining twenty-two manuscripts include French, Italian, German, Belgian, and English work produced in the Thirteenth to Fifteenth centuries, four of which are beautifully executed devotional books, the finest perhaps being a *Book of Hours* from the Huth collection which was acquired by the donor and presented to his wife in 1916, and later presented by her to the library in 1936.

The *Bibles* and liturgical books make up more than 250 items. Six of the great polyglot editions (but not the famous Plantin set) are in the group, as well as several of the important editions of the *Bible* printed in America: Eliot's *Indian Bible* (1663-61), Saur's *German Bible* (1743), Aitken's Philadelphia edition in two volumes (1782-81), an Isaiah Thomas edition of 1791, and a two-volume Hebrew *Bible* printed in Philadelphia (1814). The earliest printing of a Church of England *Book of Common Prayer*, produced by Bradford in New York (the 1715 Mohawk edition), is present, as well as a copy of another Mohawk version printed by Weyman and Gaine in 1769.

In the field of Americana, there are nearly 1,500 items printed between 1471 and 1889. Such important books as five editions of Pomponius Mela's *Cosmographia* (1471, 1478, 1482, 1498, and 1522); the so-called Columbus Letter, Planck, Rome, 1493, and a copy of the first illustrated edition, printed at Basel, 1494; eight editions of Pietro Martire d'Anghiera (better known as Peter Martyr) from 1511 to 1587; Ptolemaeus is represented with eight editions, from the 1478 *Cosmographia* to the *Geografia* in Italian, printed in Venice, 1561; Ramusio is represented also with eight items, the earliest of which is the folio edition of *Delle navigationi et viaggi*, Venice 1550; and there are three editions of Waldseemüller (1507, 1517, and 1551). Of Hakluyt there is the first edition of 1589 and the three volumes of 1598-1600, as well as a fine group of nine Las Casas tracts issued in Seville during 1552.

The count of American imprints in the Chapin Library cannot compare with those great libraries where Americana is a specialty

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but a recent survey of the section revealed twenty-six items printed before 1801 which are not listed by Evans; these and thirteen others from the College Library are described in *Bibliographical Notes from Williams* (April 1957).

Among the more than 200 items of scientific interest which were printed in English and foreign languages after 1500, there are books representative of various periods and several branches of science. The heterogeneity of the collection may be indicated by citing a few titles. From the Sixteenth Century come Agricola's *De re metallica* (1561), Boethius' *Arithmetica* (Paris 1503), four editions of Euclid (Basle 1533, 1562, and the London editions of 1570 and 1660), in addition to the great Ratdolt edition of 1482; from the Seventeenth Century Tycho Brahe's *Astronomiae* (1602), Harvey's *Exercitatio anatomica* (Frankfurt 1628) and an English edition of 1653, Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* (1667), as well as interesting editions of Kepler, Malpighi, Napier, Sydenham, Wallis and Topsell; the Eighteenth Century is represented by Carver's *Treatise on . . . tobacco* (1779), Fulton's *Treatise on . . . canal navigation* (1796), Newton's *Opticks* (1704) and White's *Natural History . . . Selborne* (1789); typical Nineteenth Century works are Sowerby's *British Mineralogy* (1804-07), Audubon's *Quadrupeds of North America* (1844-45), Darwin's *On the origin of species* (1859), and a group of ten scientific publications on chemistry and related subjects in original French editions written by Pierre Berthelot (1879-1902) all inscribed from the author to James Carleton Young.

The ornithological section, amounting to less than seventy-five items, includes nearly 200 volumes of desirable plate books. Here is a particularly fine example of the celebrated double elephant folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* (1827-38). Also present are eleven items by the famous John Gould, numbering forty-two volumes (including supplements), while Daniel Elliot's work is represented with six items, Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology* in nine volumes (1808-14), and the curious but fascinating *Ornithology* of Francis Willughby (1678).

In the field of American literature, the Chapin Library can offer a small but diverse collection of some 600 items by writers as varied as Henry Adams, Thomas Wolfe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Ezra Pound. The collection of books by William Cullen

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Bryant (a student at Williams in 1813) is probably more complete than that of any American author in the Chapin, but there are representative writings by Stephen Crane (including the 1893 *Maggie* in original wrappers); a nice lot of Ambrose Bierce; eleven items by Mark Twain including the familiar *Jumping Frog* (1867); a fair selection of Cooper's novels, and certain standard items by Emerson, Thoreau, Howells, Hawthorne, Melville, Holmes, James, Longfellow, Poe, Whitman, and Whittier. Of moderns, a dozen Ezra Pound items, the two early volumes by Robinson Jeffers: *Flagons and Apples* (1912) and *Californians* (1916), eight items by Edna St. Vincent Millay published before 1923, and Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel* (1929) deserve mention.

The collection of foreign literature, again representative, since it was acquired primarily to indicate some of the important and familiar works in the history of European (non-English) literature, numbers approximately 1,000 items. These are in addition to incunabula, *Bibles*, science, Americana and Aldine books, many of which, of course, are in foreign languages. A numerical count of these by language groups shows Greek (forty-four items), Italian (170), German (120), Spanish (276), and French (350).

Aside from the collections so far enumerated, the Chapin Library has some miscellaneous categories, as listed by Lucy Osborne in *A Short-Title List* (1939), such as: English broadside ballads, American broadsides and maps, American manuscripts, foreign and domestic newspapers, and certain prints, facsimiles, coins and other examples of printing in its various forms.

The most notable collection pertaining to a single author in the Chapin Library is that devoted to Samuel Butler. This collection of materials by and about the author of *Erewhon*, has been the property of the Chapin Library since 1932, but it was not permanently housed in the library until the beginning of the second world war. Mr. Carroll A. Wilson, the donor, was attempting during the years between 1932 and 1939 "... to give the collection greater completeness." His stated aims are given in the Foreword to his *Catalogue of the Collection of Samuel Butler* ... (Portland, Me., Southworth-Anthoensen Press, 1945) which has been distributed to interested friends and institutions.

The scope of the collection "includes every edition of every

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work by Butler printed in his life time (in association form where possible), significant editions after his death until the Shrewsbury Edition of 1923-26, and such magazine and periodical printings as were available, books about Butler and his work, manuscripts of scholastic interest, autograph letters (preferably unpublished), which illuminate his life or printed word, and other association material (here rather varied in character) which will help student or scholar to visualize Butler as a human being." (p. vi-vii)

Other than the 200 bound volumes in the Butler collection, there are also manuscripts (including autograph letters and note-books), magazines and leaflet printings (by and about him), as well as photographs of and by him, menus of "Erewhon Dinners", sales catalogues, an oil painting by Gogi, and certain objects formerly owned by Butler including a few books, a copying press which he used for making copies of letters and manuscripts, his first typewriter, his paint-box and sketch-books, a cloth portfolio used for stationery, manuscripts and correspondence which Butler used during his travels, and other memorabilia. Somewhat unusual in a literary collection are the full original orchestral scores and libretti of his musical compositions, *Narcissus* and *Ulysses*, apparently unpublished.

Finally, the collections so far enumerated and briefly described, provide the students of Williams College and many visitors with unusual materials which depict in a somewhat thorough fashion the development of western civilization. Although the examples are predominantly printed volumes, these, with the group of distinctive and valuable manuscript items produced from the eighth to fifteenth centuries, serve to illustrate the gradual but certain development of many languages and literatures, as well as the history of many liberal arts subjects.

The Chapin Library at Williams College, situated as it is in this somewhat remote spot on the periphery of a region which claims the greatest concentration of important library holdings on the book-hungry North American continent, provides remarkable resources for examination and study by students, faculty and tourists interested in the multifarious examples of the printed word produced during five centuries.

Early Books, Magazines, and Book-Making

by Charles H. Shinn

Reprinted from *The Overland Monthly*, October, 1888*

CALIFORNIA printers in the pioneer days labored under great and peculiar difficulties. The supplies of paper, ink, and type were subject to all the delays and expenses of the Cape Horn or Isthmus routes, and skilled workmen were scarce, and apt to throw down their composing sticks and rush to the mines at each favorable rumor. On the other hand, the public was willing to pay well for work, and the rewards of the business were commensurate to the risks. The printers and publishers of the early days were a picked group of men, fertile in resources, energetic in execution, most of them young; and some of the books they printed under frontier difficulties would do credit to the houses of the present day.

It is exceedingly difficult to obtain data about the earliest publications in San Francisco or the earliest firms of printers and binders. There have been so many changes, the records are so deficient, and so many fires swept the ill-built shanties of pioneer San Francisco, that book after book of which one hears is not to be found in any second-hand store or library. It was less than forty years ago, and yet there are irretrievable losses! Captain Lees of the police force has a most admirable collection of about five hundred volumes of old Californian magazines and books. The famous Bancroft library is the best place for information, and the Odd Fellows', the Mercantile, and Mechanics' Libraries each have some important beginnings, but as yet only beginnings of collections.

Indeed, the fragmentary nature of all these collections is a source of surprise and regret to investigators. Early California

*One of our members recently remarked that he had often seen mentioned Charles Howard Shinn's pioneer article on early publishing and book-making in California, but had never read the article itself. He went to the trouble of uncovering it, and we thought we might save others that trouble by reprinting it in part here. Omitted are references to illustrations in the original, a long quotation from Charles Warren Stoddard's poetry, and a too-familiar section on early magazines. Obvious typographical errors have been corrected. Shinn's information is not always correct, but it shows what was known or believed seventy years ago.

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books and periodicals are exceedingly rare, and will be of great value. Collectors should investigate the interior towns, especially old mining towns, and try to unearth whatever of value may yet remain. This scarcity extends to a very recent date, measured in years. The first series of *The Overland Monthly*, 1868-1875, is already rare, and all the first editions of books published in the State previous to 1870 are more or less hard to obtain. Some day the rarest and most precious bibliographical treasures in America will be entitled "Early Pacific Coast Publications—1840-1880," or something to that effect. . . .

The first book printed in San Francisco was issued from Washington Bartlett's press. It contains sixty-one pages, and came out early in 1849. It is a descriptive guide to the gold region, and the author is "F. P. Wierzbicki, M.D." The book sold at five dollars.

The first State printer, H. H. Robinson, in the "flush times," 1849-'50, issued a small quarto containing the constitution and acts of the first session of the California Legislature. The volume sold at that time in sheets, unbound, for ten cents per page, or \$116.40 per volume.

The early registers and directories are now rare, so many fires swept the city, but they deserve mention as being entirely home work, and full of special information. The first city directory of San Francisco was A. W. Morgan & Company's publication, issued September 8th, 1852, and printed and bound by F. A. Bonnard, at the *Despatch* printing office, corner of Commercial and Leidesdorff. It is a duodecimo of 180 pages, with Todd's old express and Adams & Company's bank advertised on the cover. . . . The publication of the city directory passed to LeCount & Strong in 1854, and in 1856 to Samuel Colville, in which year it was printed by Monson & Valentine, at 129 Sansome. This year it was a most excellent piece of home work, beginning with a history of the city.

In 1857 Henry Langley, whose connection with the San Francisco directories began the following year, edited and published *The State Register* at 144 Washington Street. It was printed at the Commercial presses, 127 Sansome, and bound in half morocco, in half calf, and in cloth by J. J. LeCount, in "The Granite Building," corner of California and Montgomery. It contained full statistics concerning the resources of the State; an exhibit of

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the finances of each county and town; and notes upon the agricultural, mining, commercial, and manufacturing industries; also an account of every water ditch, flour mill, saw mill, and quartz mill in California. James Queen was the Sacramento agent, and the work was pushed throughout the State. Still it is a scarce book, as are also the subsequent volumes.

Business directories and county directories began to appear about 1855, but the State Register remains as one of the best examples of excellent early printing and binding. . . .

There have not been many binderies on the coast, and yet the quality of the best early work done here will compare favorably with any of the time elsewhere. Some excellent workmen from London, Paris, and New York drifted here, and were allowed much freedom to develop their own ideas. While the early San Francisco presses turned out pamphlet and book work that is both interesting and valuable to the student of the technical arts that go to the making of a volume, the binders must not be forgotten. Indeed, in several cases sheets printed in New York were brought here for their costly and unique bindings. But it is a general complaint among San Francisco binders that wealthy Californians are slow to give orders for original work, thinking that it can be done better abroad; and indeed, the traditional liberality of the millionaires of the Pacific Coast does not seem to have extended to much encouragement of any part of the art preservative. Still, there are occasional bits of work done that do credit alike to purchaser and to artist. This coming winter several privately illustrated Pacific Coast works will be bound here under original designs, and with the best of hand-work.

Some of the best early binding done on this coast was turned out by Bartling & Kimball. They bound for Judge T. H. Rearden an Aldine Catullus, the 1502 edition, in scarlet morocco, tooled in dentele patterns with inlayings of blue. They bound the Knights Templar Album, Conclave of 1883, in broad roulette work, and Stoddard's South Sea Idyls in 1873, in brown morocco with red edges. Henry Marsden, while in their employ, bound a Cervantes in full brown morocco, geometrically tooled with inlayings, gilt bands, and roulette on the title page. This most elegant volume was owned by the late William Bartling of Oakland. . . . One of the firm's more recent bindings, under its present

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firm name of Bartling, Phillips & Stillwell . . . is a rare annual of about 1827, bound in full blue English calf, the design after the French style, the book finished in full gilt, and the center piece illuminated in red. The sides have a gilt border about the edge, and both edge and center are white and gold, illuminated in red, tooled with fine dotted lines. The insides of the covers are lined with white moire antique silk, tooled with dotted gold all around.

D. Hicks & Company, whose bindings are unsurpassed on the coast, bound for John R. Jarboe a copy of "The Rehearsal" by the Duke of Buckingham, Edw. Arber edition, in full dark brown calf inlaid with red and blue, extra gilt, and a gilt vine around a blind tooled staff. The Hicks-Judd Company, successor to the above, recently bound a volume for the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Woodland, California, which has been chosen . . . as the best piece of recent Pacific Coast work that I have been able to find. The execution of work of this character shows the progress that has been made in the city during the last decade in the art of bookbinding. This book is bound in dark brown Levant Morocco, and inlaid or illuminated with bright colors, purple and orange being chiefly used. The tooling or ornamental design is in gold; the shield in the center is solid gold and enamel; the pages are beautifully illuminated and ornamented by the young ladies of the Academy of the Holy Cross, and the volume has been sent to Pope Leo. In its entirety, it is a very creditable specimen of the designing and technical skill of California workmen.

Other excellent examples of California binders' work are to be seen in a copy of the Wilkie Gallery by Leary, full red morocco, gold and blind tooling with embossments, bound for A. K. P. Harmon; also a catalogue of Joseph Sabin's, bound for Alfred E. Whittaker by Cummings & Phillips, in full brown morocco, inlaid in colored leathers, and tooled.

The early books, some of which have already received mention, comprise guides to the mines, maps, stories of pioneer life, poems, and a varied assortment of subjects. One quite rare little book, 4½ x 6 inches, black cloth, plain gilt lettering, which is entitled "Sandwich Islands, Past and Present," was written here by Rev. T. Dwight Hunt in 1852, and printed at the presses of Whitton, Towne, & Co., Excelsior Office, 128 Clay Street, where it was also bound. There are 189 pages of letter press, besides title and

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preface, and the missionary view of the early history of the Hawaiian Islands and the conversion of their people has never been more clearly stated. The work is still of historical value, and is very readable. T. Dwight Hunt came to California from Honolulu in 1848, and became pastor of the First Congregational Church. Another pioneer Congregational clergyman, Rev. John A. Benton, published in the same year a book, "The California Pilgrim," which was widely read and aided greatly in calling public attention to the dangers of "gold fever." The imprint of the book was "Sacramento: Solomon Alter. San Francisco: Marvin & Hitchcock." There were two editions, the first illustrated.

Early in 1859, H. H. Bancroft & Company brought out a book by Rev. W. A. Scott, upon "Samson, the Hebrew Hercules," and another upon "Esther, the Hebrew Persian Queen," small duodecimos of about 340 pages. The first named was illustrated with wood cuts by Eastman and others, after Nahl's spirited drawings. . . . Neat, plain books and typographically excellent, these publications were a credit to the firm, and were among the first of a long line of publications from this house. A vast number of early books, book plates, and engravings were destroyed in their great fire April 30th, 1886. Their great book, Mr. H. H. Bancroft's history, is Pacific Coast work, excepting the making of the paper. The first volume of the "Native Races" was published in 1875 by the A. L. Bancroft Co.; twenty-nine volumes have now appeared. Since the fire the composition and plates have been done by the Filmer-Stiller Electrotyping Company, and the binding by the Hicks-Judd Company. . . .

Arthur and Charles Nahl, true to that training in athletics which every German knows something of, published in 1863, through A. Rosenfeld, a large quarto, of "Instructions in Gymnastics," whose title page was very attractive. Towne & Bacon were the printers, and the work was dedicated to the San Francisco Olympic Club. It contained several hundred illustrations from drawings by the authors. Edward Bosqui bound this book in half calf, with gilt borders and inlaid title. The plates were made and all the work done in this city, and the result was a valuable manual, which was far in advance of the time, and only needed pushing to make it widely known. There is something very quaint about the wide margins of this interesting quarto; its

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old-fashioned rules about each page, and its German script initials.

Coming down to a later period, when the early publications were giving way to a new school, we find that two volumes of selected verse came first in the list. Bret Harte's "Outcroppings: Selections of California Verse," was published in 1866, by A. Roman. Among the poets who were honored by selections were Edward Pollock, Lyman R. Goodman, E. G. Paige, Emilie Lawson, C. H. Webb, W. A. Kendall, Charles Warren Stoddard, J. F. Bowman, B. P. Avery, J. R. Ridge, James Linen, Mrs. A. M. Shultz, Ina D. Coolbrith, and a few others. It was a simple little green and gold volume, with an arabesque design on the cover, and it is very hard to get hold of in the second-hand book stores. Another collection of California verse is May Wentworth's "Poetry of the Pacific," published in 1867, by the Pacific Publishing Company, 305 Montgomery Street. It is a duodecimo of 415 pages, and is the only remaining record of numbers of the early Pacific Coast writers.

It was in 1867 that Towne & Bacon, the famous old firm at first Whitton & Towne, then Towne & Bacon, issued Harte's "Lost Galleon." His "Outcroppings," a volume of poetic selections which had offended many literary cliques, had brought Mr. Harte into notice, and his "Lost Galleon" made it certain that a new writer of rare promise was in the field. It is hardly too much to say that a few volumes of verse by several young persons appearing in 1866 and 1867 prepared the way for the establishment of a Pacific Coast magazine the following year.

Bret Harte's ghostly tale of "The Lost Galleon" was a pretty duodecimo of 105 pages. This volume, as we have said, every one here read, nearly a quarter of a century ago, with the sense of having discovered a real poet in hurrying San Francisco, before the finish and beauty of his early work in the *Overland* had introduced him to the world. Bret Harte is now become a tradition to the Californian. Unlike the other writers of the Pacific Coast, he has not simply drifted away from us, but has frankly and avowedly left us forever, and seemingly without regrets or interest. His work here can be viewed without fear or favor, as the work of one who is as apart from us as if he were no more living. But even viewed thus dispassionately twenty-one years after its first impression was made, "The Lost Galleon" does not fail to

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renew the charm we all felt in it at the time. We can see now that the patriotic poems of Mr. Harte have no particular value, but the Spanish-Californian studies, such as this of the lost galleon, are far better. This saintly Flying Dutchman, for three hundred years compelled to cruise around the South Seas, trying to cross the 180th degree on the ninth of May, is one of those vivid conceptions that the right man would make into a weird novel, and that any artist would be proud to be asked to illustrate. . . .

A little later, in 1869, James Linen, a modest, thoughtful poet, not widely known but still worth reading, published a long poem, "The Golden Gate." Edward Bosqui was the publisher, and the artists who furnished illustrations were J. B. Wandesforde, Norton Bush, and A. Nahl. . . .

One of the most attractive of the early books was the collection of Charles Warren Stoddard's poems published by A. Roman & Company, in 1867, and in some sense serving as a prelude to the revival of literary interest that led to the establishment of the *Overland Monthly* the following year. Edward Bosqui & Company were the printers, and the volume was in all respects a good example of modest, tasteful execution. The five illustrations were drawn and engraved by William Keith, and seem surprisingly like the best recent magazine work. Indeed, no magazine in America was using such illustrations twenty years ago. . . . Tamalpais and Alcatraz never had a better interpreter.

Mr. Stoddard's early poems have drifted somewhat out of public view, only to find a haven in the memories and regards of a few. Dainty and musical rhymes they were, charming the city with their sweetness. I find stray copies of this first edition of Stoddard's poems treasured in out of the way places, by busy men, on lonely ranches, in mining camps, or on the frontiers, where one would expect to see more of Harte or Twain, and I have often wondered what was Stoddard's charm with such men. Perhaps it is the simplicity of his elements—dusk, and sunset, and first rains, shells, and sea waves, and flowing streams, written of with an artless boyishness that pleases the reader. . . .

The monogram . . . [on] the title page of Stoddard's poems . . . is that of the old publishing house of A. Roman, the well-known bookseller of San Francisco, who began business in 1857. He has furnished us with a list of the more important publications of

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his house, and it certainly does credit to the coast. Nahl's *Gymnastics*, John Hittell's *Resources of California*, the famous "Outcroppings of California Verse," which Harte collected in 1866, and John F. Swift's "Going to Jericho" were among the early Roman publications. They published Loomis's "Confucius and the Chinese Classics," various Chinese and English phrase books, numbers of pioneer reports and pamphlets, some curious early theological and religious works by local pastors, and numbers of local novels by forgotten writers. Rev. Charles Wadsworth's eloquent sermons were published in 1869. Bishop Kip, the previous year, had published his work, still a standard, on "The Unnoticed Things of Scripture." That fine old Indian fighter and picturesque Bohemian, Col. John C. Cremony, published his racy book, "Among the Apaches," in 1868. Cremony was a thoroughly interesting and manly sort of a man; the friend and daily associate of Harte, Stoddard, Carmany, Williams, and Avery; a good, hard working journalist; and a man whose oddities and marvelous narratives have served to keep his memory green these many years, so that men who never heard of Bret Harte can tell stories about the old Colonel.

In all, Roman published fifty-four books, some juveniles, some scientific or polemical, but chiefly literary. Most of these were published in 1866, '67, '68, and '69; and good, honest work went to the making of them. A large proportion of the fifty-four were books that attracted attention and sales in the East. Yale's "Mining Claims," (1868) is still a high legal authority. Ferris's "Financial Economy" (1867) preceded Henry George in many of his financial views.

Among the many books of poetry that have been published in San Francisco, one, a little collection called "College Verses," compiled from various periodicals, and covering the years between 1872 and 1882, is especially a book with a happy cover design. These "California Verses" of the University of California are in a modest volume of 4 by 5½ inches and 112 pages. The cover . . . is simply a spray of California wild oats, such as clothes all the hills, with the interwoven U. C. of the University, all in gold on black. This little book was the work of "The California Publishing Company," Bacon & Company, printers, and outside of college circles is almost unknown.

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Another of the old books, which sold throughout the United States, and is marked as rare on the catalogues, is Theodore H. Hittell's "Adventures of James Capen Adams, Mountaineer and Grizzly Bear Hunter of California." There seems to have been the making of a series of frontier novels in the reminiscences of the old grizzly fighter. Aimard or Dumas would make twenty volumes out of the material. But this duodecimo of three hundred and seventy-eight pages, illustrated by wood engravings of Eastman's and Loomis's from Nahl's best designs has hardly a waste word. It deserves reprinting for the boys of California. Grizzly hunting in Alameda County; elk shooting in the San Joaquin Valley; stories of buffaloes and antelopes, and other large game animals, roving where railroads now run and cities stand—these are worth reading, even if one is no longer a boy. Nahl, with all his studies of the grizzly, never created better grizzly types than in the illustrations to this book. It was another of the Towne & Bacon prints, and the date of its appearance was 1860. Still another curious old book on the province of Sonora, Mexico, was a translation from Don Francis Velasco's History of Sonora, made by Wm. F. Nye, and bearing the Bancroft imprint. Velasco was Secretary of State and member of the Mexican Congress sometime in the fifties, and his work describes the climate, soil, mines, and political organization of Sonora. Its most interesting chapters relate to the Indians, and the early mines and mining customs, often similar to those that prevailed in California. Incidentally, it contains considerable information about early mining ventures in Sonora by American prospectors and capitalists. Hand-books of the Southwest, mining manuals for Arizona, New Mexico, and the Mexican borders have been issued in great abundance ever since, but still the plain little duodecimo of one hundred and eighty pages that Nye translated and published in 1861, keeps a charm of its own.

One of the handsomely bound books of 1865 was J. Henry Rodgers' "The California Hundred." This was issued from the Towne & Bacon presses, a small duodecimo of one hundred pages, and charmingly bound in full russia, tooled in broad lines about the panel, and with an acorn design on the back. Col. Baker and the California Battalion are celebrated in the poem, which has been a favorite gift book. In 1866 Sarah E. Carmichael privately

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printed a small volume of verse, a red-line edition. She was then a resident of Salt Lake, and one of the best known of the Utah writers, but her volume was printed in San Francisco. W. K. Weare of Nevada also published a volume, "Songs of the Western Shore."

The limits of this article are reaching a close, and yet the subject broadens, and the list of early publications is too long to be completed here. None of the publications of the interior cities have been mentioned. Oregon and Washington Territory, with their early pamphlets, periodicals, and books must wait for a future article. Even among the San Francisco publications many more would receive attention in an exhaustive monograph. There was *The Oriental*, that curious monthly that Rev. William Speer began in 1855, in both English and Chinese. There was the political sheet, *Svoboda*, that Father Agapius Honcharenko published for a time. There was Henry George's weekly, *The State*, begun during the New Constitution struggle, continued less than three months, and so rare that a complete set is not known to be extant. The first edition of Mr. George's Progress and Poverty, too, first saw the light in this city. And there were probably a greater number of verses of every description published in San Francisco between 1853 and 1875 than in any other city of equal size and of no greater publishing facilities. But the periodicals, books, and bindings I have mentioned seem to sufficiently illustrate the field. The subject of the early newspapers, especially the publications of the various mining camps, offers even more abundant material for some investigator of the future.

Notes on Publications

Daredevils of the Sea will be the next publication of The Book Club of California. The main part of the book will consist of extracts from the journal of one of the crew on board the British sloop of war *Raccoon*, ordered to the Northwest Coast of America during the War of 1812 to drive the American fur traders from the Columbia River and take possession for Great Britain. Actually, the *Raccoon* arrived at the Columbia too late. John Jacob Astor, the American entrepreneur, had already sold his Pacific Fur Company to the British Northwest Company, and the little post of Astoria, founded by Astor's men, was too isolated to be defended during a war.

The journalist of the *Raccoon* gives a superb description of their arrival and experiences at Astoria, and of the running up of the British flag. After these

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events, they sailed for San Francisco Bay, where they spent some time in the harbor of St. Francis repairing a hole in the sloop's hull and letting the men recover their strength. Oddly enough, the *Raccoon* had made the long voyage to the Northwest Coast without incident and had never had to fight; then, on her southward voyage, she had suffered the misfortune of a stove-in hull and was barely able to make it to San Francisco Bay before the rising water in her hull would have caused her to sink.

After a pleasant enough stay at San Francisco, about which the journalist gives a lively description of scenes and events, the sloop went off to the Hawaiian—then called the Sandwich—Islands. There again, this writer, a keen and intelligent observer, captured for the pages of his journal some delightful pictures of what his eyes had seen. From the Islands, the ship made its way back home along the coast of South America and around the Horn once more. Aside from the earlier events, however, the whole voyage was uneventful except for the usual sea-going hardships, broken by the steady tolling of the ship's bells as one crew member after another succumbed and was buried at sea.

As editor of this journal, The Book Club was successful in finding our own Board member, Dr. John A. Hussey, the Regional Historian of the National Park Service, San Francisco, who will be remembered as the author of the recent volume, *The History of Fort Vancouver* (1957). A specialist on the history of the Pacific Northwest, as well as on California, Dr. Hussey has written an excellent introduction as a setting for the voyage and for the significance of the journal as a contribution to Pacific Coast history.

Daredevils of the Sea will be designed and printed by James Elliott of Taylor and Taylor, San Francisco, one of the city's eminent printers.

The *Estracto de Noticias*, delayed in publication owing to production difficulties, will have been sent to members before this issue of the *News-Letter* appears. The designer, James W. Robertson, overcame numerous bookmaking problems in producing this truly beautiful book. Critics call it one of the Club's distinctive achievements. If you did not get a copy, please do not delay, for the supply may soon be exhausted. The edition consists of 400 copies.

Exhibition Notes

THE EVOLUTION OF AN AUTHOR, the current exhibition in the Club Rooms, displaying the work of Oscar Lewis, opened on Monday, April 28, with one of the most successful parties the Club has ever had. The exhibition received wide publicity in the San Francisco newspapers—including an article by the undersigned in the *Chronicle*—and has occasioned much comment and interest. The material shown reflects Mr. Lewis's writing career from his first publication at the age of nineteen to the manuscript of his latest published work (published on the day of the opening) and a trial page of a work in press. Included are two rare and choice broadsides written by Oscar about his publishing partner, one Robert Grabhorn. The exhibit will continue through June 13.

The next showing in the Club's cases will be the first of a series on treasures from members' libraries, which your committee has long tried to inaugurate. The collection of the Club itself will be the first displayed, and members should

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be surprised and pleased to see some unexpected treasures: incunabula, an Aldus, a fine Plantin on vellum, and many landmark press books, including Dard Hunter's books on papermaking. The exhibit will continue during the Summer, including the time when the American Library Association meets in San Francisco.

J. TERRY BENDER

Elected to Membership

The following have been elected to membership since the Spring issue of the News-Letter:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Mark Berke	San Francisco	Joseph Bransten
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Gayle Shelton	San Francisco	Oscar Lewis
Raynard C. Swank	Stanford	J. Terry Bender
Edward O. Zelinsky	San Francisco	Warren Howell
Yosemite Museum		
Research Library	Yosemite	Ansel Adams

Serendipity

IN A LETTER from Lew Allen in France, dated 9 April, he gives the following news:

"About our book, today we 'gathered' the sections, and the 152 copies are wrapped, ready for shipment to S. F. Because the decorative paper purchased in Paris does not seem quite right, we will have to find something else when we return to Paris in July; so the binding must wait until our return—probably in September. Regarding the title, I think it contrary to my nature to be 'coy,' but it seems unwise to mention it so far in advance of the publication date. We are somewhat pleased with it, and we believe it is greatly superior to our 1952 effort over here . . . ; when we reminisce on the barriers hurdled, we have some feelings of accomplishment.

"As you know, when we return and set up our shop, we intend to produce all future books on a handpress—either our Acorn or the smaller Albion. And most of the books will be folios. (One becomes less inhibited, more expansive over here.) Anyway, towards that goal we ordered a quantity of the handsome Richard de Bas handmade paper . . . [which] will yield a page about 10 x 13 inches."

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NEXT PORT of call for the Stanford-organized exhibit of the work of Jane Grabhorn is the UCLA Library, where it opened at a Rounce & Coffin Club meeting on the evening of May 23.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, May 25, saw the opening of the major exhibit of the academic year in the Stanford University Libraries, a comprehensive show of W. Somerset Maugham. The section on his works covers his entire writing career to date, and includes the original manuscripts of many of his important works, borrowed from major collections here and abroad. The Library of Congress has lent the manuscript of Mr. Maugham's most famous novel, *Of Human Bondage*. A graphic section shows a bust of the author, photographs and portraits at different ages. The exhibition will continue through August 1, and a detailed catalogue may be obtained at the Stanford Library. This elaborate display was prepared by J. Terry Bender, who also persuaded Mr. Maugham to write a preface for the catalogue.

SHORT POEMS by three writers, Bill Buck, Wallace Look, and Jane Hamner, have been collected in a volume called *Later Eyes*, beautifully printed by Mallette Dean in Fairfax at Christmas time last year. The edition is 150, of which some are for sale at \$6.00, obtainable from Wallace Look, 1847 Castro Street, San Francisco 14. This is their second publication; in 1955 Jack Stauffacher printed their *Three Doors* at the Greenwood Press. This, also a volume of verse, is out of print, but copies of both are in the Club Library and may be seen there.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of The Book Club of California was held Tuesday noon, March 25, 1958, in the Club Rooms. Warren Howell and John Borden were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms. They replaced Paul Bissinger and Robert de Roos who did not stand for re-election. David Magee, W. W. Robinson, and Carl Wheat were re-elected as Directors for three-year terms. After the meeting was adjourned, the Board of Directors met and all officers were re-elected to their offices. No other business was transacted.

THIS YEAR'S JOSEPH HENRY JACKSON AWARD has been given to William G. Wiegand of Los Altos, who teaches in the English Department at Stanford. Mr. Wiegand has published one novel, *At Last Mr. Tolliver*, and received the award on the basis of a novel in progress, concerning a prison riot. Judges this year were Walter van Tilberg Clark, Wallace Stegner, and George R. Stewart. The award, which is \$1,000, is administered by the San Francisco Foundation.

USING A SPECIAL CASTING of Goudy's Kennerly Italic, the Grabhorn Press has just published Dante's *Divine Comedy* in a new translation by Mary Prentice Lillie (Mrs. Albert Barrows). Although she has sacrificed the rhyme scheme of the original as being contorted when put into English, the translator has used the eleven syllables of the Italian line rather than the ten of English blank verse. The work is in three volumes, bound in hand-made parchment paper, boxed, at \$45.00 the set.

THE WELWOOD MURRAY MEMORIAL LIBRARY of Palm Springs has begun the private publication of a series of pamphlets on famous libraries, and the Club has received the first, *Biblioteca Medicea Laurenciana* by Melba Berry Bennett.

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